

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group

MINUTES for August 9, 2003

6:15 PM – 8 PM

CAG Members Present:

Neighborhood Associations:

Robin Plance	St. Johns; Chair, Administrative committee coordinator
(b) (6)	(b) (6)
(b) (6)	University Park; (b) (6)
Peter Laughingwolf	Friends of Cathedral Park; (b) (6)

Business:

(b) (6)	Citizen; (b) (6)
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Environment:

Dorothy Shoemaker	Sierra Club Secretary, Evaluation committee coordinator
	(b) (6)
Travis Williams	Willamette-Riverkeeper
	travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org

Recreation:

Bill Barrett	Waterfront Organizations of Oregon
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Public Health:

At-Large:

(b) (6)	Citizen; (b) (6)
(b) (6)	Citizen; (b) (6)
(b) (6)	Citizen; (b) (6)

Other Participants:

(b) (6)	Citizen; (b) (6)
Barbara Smith	LWG; Barbara@harrisandsmith.com
Jim Anderson	DEQ; Anderson.jim@deq.state.or.us
Chip Humphrey	EPA; humphrey.chip@epa.gov
Amanda Guay	DHS/SHINE; Amanda.m.guay@state.or.us
Dave Stone	DHS/SHINE; dave.stone@state.or.us

Excused:

Larry Talbert	HiNoon (b) (6)
Rhett Lawrence	OSPIRG rhett@ospirg.org
Jane Haley-Harris	Oregon Center for Environmental Health
	jane@oregon-health.org

Steve Gunther
Peter Laughingwolf

Progressive Products and Services
Friends of Cathedral Park

Steve Gunther has missed more than three meetings. He called Joe to tell him that he would not be at the August meeting.

Jane and Rhett both let us ahead of time that they had other obligations that night. Larry is on long term excused absences. Peter had other family obligations.

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Meeting brought to order by Robin Plance, Chair of the CAG. Quorum check OK.

MOTION: Accept the agenda. Agreed.

Next meeting set for September 10, 2003 from 6-8 PM.

Tom Chisolm reported that Mark Stephan did not get the grant to study the CAG. Tom and Mark will continue to participate as observers.

Changes in minutes:

Rob De Graff's email address is not (b) (6), but should be (b) (6).

Barbara is at Barbara@harrisandsmith.com.

SHINE is a DHS program, not DEQ.

They are studying Chinook salmon, not Coho salmon.

MOTION to approve the minutes as amended: RdeG, 2nd by JR, all agreed.

The agenda put together by RP was accepted without objection.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

JK is planning a press conference in 2 weeks. He will do the planning by email.

JK and DS spoke to CSTAG about the role of the CAG. CSTAG is an EPA oversight committee for the Portland Harbor. Various interests in the cleanup spoke, including the PHCAG (JK, DS), WRK (TW), and Barbara from LWG. CSTAG was interested in the CAG. The meeting was attended by many EPA officials, some from national office.

JK told the CSTAG that we are pleased with the EPA so far, in general. We would like to see more done about having the PRPs sign the AOC (and join the LWG). Joe told them that we are concerned about the early actions that are not happening yet. He told the CSTAG that we are setup with bylaws and committees now, and that the next step for us to grow is to obtain funding. Joe emphasized how much we have done without funding. Barbara Smith also spoke up about funding the CAG, when it was her turn to talk.

The issue of McCormick & Baxter came up, and funding the Superfund in our area.

ADMINISTRATION:

Robin talked to Paige Knight at Open Meadows High School. She wants mentor to accompany students to CAG meetings. JR offered to mentor a student.

PH101: SHINE

Amanda Guay presented the DHS/SHINE program, which employs her, Dave Stone, and Janice Panichello. It stands for Dept. of Health Services/Superfund Health Investigation and Education.

SHINE determines adverse health effects and educates the community for both upland and in-river contamination.

The Willamette Cove (near McCormick & Baxter) public health assessment (PHA) was finished in Spring 2003. They will be updating the initial PHA with new data.

SHINE is studying anadromous fish. They are also conducting fish consumption health education.

Crayfish have been harvested and sold in ads in the Oregonian. DHS will look over new data, maybe extend their advisory on crayfish.

DHS/SHINE has done surveys of fish consumption at community gatherings. SHINE feels people should know the facts about eating fish from the Portland Harbor.

SHINE has announced the Portland Harbor mini-grants, of approximately \$1000 each, for a total of \$10,000 spent. CAG members are encouraged to spread the word.

PCBs and most other toxins (except mercury) accumulate in the fatty tissues, so fillets are safer.

SHINE is developing a brochure about safe eating guidelines for pregnant women and children under 6. The brochure will cover fish from the river and from restaurants.

SHINE is developing signs to put along the Portland Harbor. There is a meeting Thursday, August 21. Contact Mandy if you are interested.

The CAG will discuss the Field Sampling Plan (FSP) at the September meeting. EPA and DEQ will have their comments by then, if all goes right, and Chip and Jim will talk at our meeting about their comments. EPA/DEQ is proposing a new sampling plan, not just revisions to the LWG FSP.

Because of the FSP discussion and Chip and Jim's presentation, we will not have a formal Portland Harbor 101. There was some talk of promoting the CAG to PH201.

The evaluation committee will meet after the next CAG meeting to talk about the FSP. DS will announce the meeting by email.

CAG LETTER TO EPA ABOUT WORK PLAN:

MOTION to send it: JR, 2nd JK.

Amendments: Chip Humphrey's last name was misspelled. Tom Chisolm will email some text to add. "Citizen" will be corrected to "community" in our name. In the third paragraph, change "are part of the LWG's process" to "have signed the AOC". Also in the third paragraph, "... the EPA endeavors to expand participation to include all the PRP's." In comment III, "sampled" is corrected to "sampling".

AMENDMENT to have RP and DS wordsmith after receiving TC's paragraphs.

MOTION passed unanimously as amended.

TW has the new logo ready. He'll email it to DS.

The website has been updated. DS added a page by RL about SB751, which just passed the Oregon House. Barbara Smith pointed out that we can get permission from the Oregonian to reprint articles, simply by asking them.

The McCormick & Baxter Superfund site has not received the funding they requested to cap the river bottom, and later the shore, where creosote has built up.

JK proposed a letter to the new EPA chief about McCormick & Baxter funding, and how this makes hotspots (early actions areas) untreatable.

RP suggests writing about Superfund taxes.

Travis suggested that the failure of McCormick and Baxter was due, in part, to a lack of coordination between DEQ and other stakeholders. There was a lack of communication between DEQ and natural allies that could have lent support last winter and spring 03.

Travis said that a more concerted lobbying effort should be made next year to get the Oregon Congressional delegation informed, and on board to the degree possible. While the CAG does not have time or staff to do that, some members, like Willamette Riverkeeper, plan to inform our Congressional members, Portland City Council, EPA and other local political entities that can voice their support. The goal is to let EPA Region 10, and Washington, DC to know very well that the people of Portland and Oregon, want the base funding to conduct the last key stages of the McCormick and Baxter cleanup. This can be a coordinated effort in early 04.

A letter to the editor was suggested, emphasizing the irony that Bush is visiting the University of Portland on August 21, which is near the site.

Fenix reported that the DEQ needs to put a cap in the river bottom. DEQ need \$11 million for the in-water cap. Next, they will need \$4 or \$5 million to cap the ground. They have \$3 million, to put toward the river bottom cap, so need \$12 million.

RdeG suggested copying the City of Portland, the Portland Business Alliance, and your representative on letters to the editor.

The evaluation committee will draft a letter.

There was discussion of making a campaign out of it.

JK is interested in obtaining the McCormick & Baxter Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). This is sent to the administrative committee. Chip agreed to followup on the status and let Robin know more.

\$19 was collected toward refreshments. \$52 spent.

RP adjourned the meeting at 8 PM.